

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 22 2009

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Persons Barn and Granary

Other name/site number _____

2. Location

Street & number 2103 Highway 18 (Zeandale Road) ☐ not for publication

City or town Manhattan ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Riley Code 161 Zip code 66502

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patrick Gollner DSHPO

12-8-08

Signature of certifying official/Title
Kansas State Historical Society

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official /Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register. _____
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register _____
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- ☐ removed from the National Register _____
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Persons Barn and Granary

Name of Property

Riley County, Kansas

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Agriculture -Related Resources of Kansas

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter Categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding,
Animal Facility, and Storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural Outbuilding
and Animal Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Gable-Roof Barn, Granary, Silo, and Corral

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Stone

Walls: Wood

Roof: Metal

Other: Clay tile Silo and Stone Corral

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Persons Barn and Granary

Name of Property

Riley County, Kansas

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1860 - 1958

Significant Dates

c. 1860, 1919, c.1920, 1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ Previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
record # _____

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

[illegible]☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Brenda R. Spencer

Organization Preservation Planning & Design

Date 28 May, 2008

Street & number 10150 Onaga Road

Telephone 785-456-9857

City or town Wamego

State KS

Zip code 66547

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Ron and Chris Wilson

Street & number 2103 Highway 18

Telephone 785-539-7899

City or town Manhattan

State KS

Zip code 66502

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number 7 Page 1

Persons Barn and Granary
Riley County, Kansas

7. Narrative Description

The Persons Farm, known as the Lazy T Ranch, is nestled in the Flint Hills of the Kansas River valley in southeast Riley County. It is located three miles southeast of Manhattan on Highway K-18, also known as Zeandale Road. The farm was established in 1855 when Enoch Persons came to Manhattan from New England and settled on an 80-acre homestead tract. His holdings had grown to an entire section (640 acres) by 1890.¹ A ¼ mile-long drive south off Highway K-18, provides access to the farmstead. The ranch entrance is marked with a sign inscribed "Lazy – T- Ranch" mounted on tall poles over the drive.

The ranch is located in a river valley with sweeping meadows of native grasses. The pastures feature stone outcroppings used to build many of the early buildings. The existing farmstead is comprised of multiple historic and modern farm and domestic buildings divided among the owners. A new home was constructed in 2006, near the site of the original stone farmhouse. A 1923 frame farmhouse remains, located north of the modern home. The nominated property includes a grouping of related farm buildings that are located south of both homes, on the south side of the farmstead. The two dominant buildings in the grouping are the barn and granary. Secondary structures include a stone corral and tile silo. A small contemporary loafing shed is located in the barnyard, near the silo.

The grouping's dominant building is the barn, a two-story structure with a gable-roof. The barn measures approximately 33' x 36' and has a standing seam metal roof. It is located south of the farmhouse and modern home and is situated at the base of a rise in grade anchoring the west side of the barnyard. Although the barn has the appearance from the northeast of a Bank Barn, its upper level is not accessible at grade. Because the barn is not accessible at grade at two levels, it is classified as a Gable-Roof Barn. It is an excellent early example of that Property Type. The ground floor is constructed of native limestone, quarried from the land nearby and features dressed stones at the corners that resemble quoins. The upper facade of the barn is clad in vertical board-and-batten siding. Unlike a majority of Gable-Roof Barns in Kansas, the Persons Barn has the primary ground-level opening in the center of the broadside of the barn, rather than on the gable-end. Secondary openings include a door in the center of the east side of the barn (into the barnyard), and the hay hood and hay door on the west end of the barn. There are few other openings in the barn walls. A small door is located at floor-level of the haymow on the east façade; and two small windows flank the center door on the ground floor. There is one small opening/window in the stone wall of the west facade. The central door at ground level and at floor level of the haymow, are the only openings on the north and south.

The plan configuration is oriented around the center aisle. The east half of the ground floor contains a row of stalls with mangers and the west half has milking stanchions. The haymow is one large open space with interior supports and modern bracing. The hay hood and track are extant but the hay door is missing. A large opening in the west gable-end marks the location of the former hay door. A unique feature of the barn is the system of chutes that allowed easy distribution of hay from the mow, down to the ground floor stalls and loafing shed. A concrete slab floor was later added to the milking area. Original stone slabs remain on the floor in the remainder of the barn.

A 30' x 80' one-story shed addition extends from the southwest corner of the original barn. Like the original barn, this addition, which likely dates to c.1920s, has a stone foundation and board-and-batten siding. The foundation features some dressed stones, set like quoins at the southwest corner. These stones may have

¹ The quarter-section with the buildings was divided from the farmland and purchased by the Wilson family in 1968.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number 7 Page 2

**Persons Barn and Granary
Riley County, Kansas**

been salvaged from the original stone house (the existing frame farmhouse was constructed in 1923 and it is likely that the early stone farmhouse was removed around that same time). The stone wall is supported by short buttresses along the inside of the west wall. The shed addition was designed to serve two primary functions – additional hay storage and a loafing shed for sheltering and feeding livestock. The addition was designed to be accessed from a drive along the west side of the barn. It had multiple doors along the west facade, used to load hay directly from the wagon into the shed. A feed rack, which facilitated feeding the livestock in the loafing shed, extends the length of the addition, separating the hay storage from the loafing shed. The shed addition is opens to the barnyard to the east. It is accessible from the main barn through the center door on the south facade. A hay chute extends from the haymow into the hay shed below.

The date of the original barn's construction is not documented. It is clear that Enoch Persons homesteaded the original 80 acres in 1855 and had gained title to that land in the early 1860s suggesting that improvements (buildings) were in place. The 1864 Riley County Assessors Roll lists Enoch Persons and included real estate and personal property tax assessments. The barn is constructed of sawn lumber although the primary structural columns on the ground floor are hewn posts. The city of Manhattan, which was established in 1855, was settled in part by the New England Emigrant Aid Company, which encouraged emigration by constructing sawmills in its colonies. Sawn lumber would have been readily available in this area after the arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad in the 1860s, the decade the barn was likely built. A stone farmhouse (no longer extant) was reportedly built around the same time. The barn retains a high degree of historic integrity, clearly portraying its original design and function. Repairs have been made to areas of the stone walls. The barn is generally in fair to good condition in need of some basic repairs and maintenance.

The second primary farm building located in the barnyard grouping at the south end of the farmstead is a granary. The granary is located north and east of the barn. It is a 1-1/2 story frame structure with a limestone foundation. Although no documentation has been found to date this building, by its appearance, it was among the early buildings built on the farm and likely dates to the same time period as the barn. Characteristic of its original purpose of storing grain, the building has few openings except those used for loading and unloading grain. The granary has a gabled roof with corrugated metal roofing, and horizontal clapboard siding on the exterior walls. The interior is subdivided into individual rooms or bins for grain storage with no interior circulation through the building. There are five bins on the north and three on the south. The rooms at the west end are larger; the northwest corner appears to have been designed as a corn crib with the horizontal slats spaced for ventilation and the southwest corner for other storage. The smaller bins have walls with butted horizontal boards separating the individual bins. The bins are accessed by narrow doors on the exterior facade. Larger doors into the west bay support the premise that these bays were used for a corn crib or other storage. There is some deterioration of the stone foundation and the roof is in need of repair. Although the building is no longer used for grain storage, the granary is in fair condition and used as a tack room and for general storage.

Secondary structures in the historic barnyard grouping include a stone corral and tile silo. The corral is comprised of two sections. The first extends from the southeast corner of the barn, east, and from the southeast corner of the loafing shed, east, to enclose a rectangular barn lot off the southeast corner of the barn. The stone wall is approximately six feet high and includes some tooled stones, possibly salvaged from the original farmhouse. There are two openings in the east side of the corral, and one at the northeast corner of the corral. The date "1939" is inscribed in stone at two locations. A second section of stone wall is located east of the barn lot, off the southeast corner of the granary. This wall section does not fully enclose a lot. It is comprised of two perpendicular walls, approximately 10' each that extend north and west. A small stone enclosure is located on the east side of the north/south wall. There is a small window in the west wall of the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number 7 Page 3

**Persons Barn and Granary
Riley County, Kansas**

enclosure (the north/south wall of the corral), and a small single door opening on the south wall of the enclosure. The enclosure has a corrugated metal shed roof and appears to have been used as a small shed to provide shelter for calves. Modern fencing extends from this second section of stone wall south, and then west to enclose a rectangular lot. A fence also extends from the northeast corner of the barn to the southwest corner of the granary, enclosing the barnyard.

A clay tile silo is located at the southeast corner of the stone corral, southeast of the hay/loafing shed. The silo was built of hollow clay tile and has a date "9-1-1919" carved into one of the tiles. The silo has a concrete floor and remains in fair to good condition although it is no longer used. A small modern, metal-clad loafing shed is located northeast of the silo, within the fenced barn yard. This shed provides additional shelter for livestock in the barn yard; it is a contemporary building with no historic significance.

This group of historic farm resources on the south side of the farmstead includes the barn and granary which are among the earliest buildings constructed on the farm. The hay/loafing shed addition and secondary structures represent the evolution of this early Kansas farm, spanning more than fifty years. All of the historic resources retain a high degree of integrity, portraying their original design and use.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number 8 Page 4

Persons Barn and Granary
Riley County, Kansas

8. Statement of Significance

The Persons Barn and Granary in Riley County are being nominated to the National Register under the Multiple Property Submission-*Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* (Davis and Spencer, 2008). These primary farm buildings are significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of Agriculture and Architecture. The barn is a good, early example of the "Gable-Roof Barn" property type, one of the most common styles of Kansas barns. The granary is an excellent example of early, on-farm grain storage. The Persons Barn and Granary are being nominated as part of an "associated grouping" of historic farm buildings and related structures that also includes a native stone corral and hollow clay tile silo. This barnyard grouping is significant as an example of an early Kansas farm, established by immigrants who homesteaded in Riley County in 1855 and remains in active use today.

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS

The Persons Barn is an example of the Gable-Roof barn property type as identified in the *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* Multiple Property Nomination. The property type is defined by the roof shape and includes plan configurations with central openings on the gable-end or broad-side of the barn. Floor plans typically featured a center aisle with stalls or stanchions on each side and a haymow above. Many gable-roof barns are distinguished by a hay hood and hay door used to load loose hay into the haymow. The property type accommodates the addition of lean-to or shed bays on secondary facades.²

Gable-Roof Barns in Kansas date to all periods of farm development. The earliest gable-roof barns are timber-framed with mortise and tenon joints. By the late Nineteenth Century, farmers combined timber-frame construction with balloon-framing techniques. Regardless of the method of construction, Gable-Roof barns typically have stone or concrete foundations and vertical cladding.³ Gable-roof barns were usurped in popularity by the gambrel-roof by the 1920s. Together, these two roof styles comprise a majority of historic barns in Kansas.

The Persons Barn is a good, early representative of the Gable-Roof barn property type. It has a center aisle with openings on the broad-side, reminiscent of early threshing barns although the layout is similar to the more traditional configuration with stalls and stanchions flanking a center aisle (typically oriented off the gable-end). The Persons Barn has a haymow on the upper level with a hay hood on the west gable-end. A large opening indicates the presence of a former hay door that slid down the exterior facade (versus a hinged door). Likely built in the 1860s, the barn is wood-frame construction with hewn posts on the interior. The ground-floor of the barn is native limestone with vertical board and batten siding on the upper facade. The gable roof is standing-seam metal. A shed addition, reportedly built in the 1920s, extends from the south facade. The addition serves the dual purpose of a hay shed and loafing shed. Like the original barn, the addition has a stone foundation and board and batten siding. However, its construction is clearly discernable from the original barn. The barn retains a high degree of historic integrity and clearly portrays the primary characteristics of the property type.

Granaries are also identified as eligible "Primary Farm Structures" in the *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* Multiple Property Nomination (MPS). The MPS notes that granaries typically take one of two forms: 1) a small, narrow, rectangular structure with gabled roof that is sometimes elevated on short

² Christy Davis and Brenda Spencer, *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register, 2008. p.49-52.

³ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number 8 Page 5

Persons Barn and Granary
Riley County, Kansas

piers, or 2) a three-bay gabled roof structure with drive-in center bay and grain "bins" down each side. Because the buildings were designed to be filled with grain, granaries are distinguished by small square or rectangular doors for filling the bins with grain and have few openings other than those for filling or removing the grain.⁴

The Persons Granary, a wood-frame structure with a gable roof, falls into the second common form type described in the MPS. The foundation is limestone and the exterior, horizontal clapboard siding. The building has multiple interior "bins" designed for grain storage. The bins are accessed by narrow doors on the exterior and small rectangular openings at some bins, for loading the grain.

The Persons Barn and Granary are being nominated as an associated grouping of historic farm resources. The barn and granary are the primary buildings in the barnyard; secondary structures include a stone corral and a tile silo, as well as a small contemporary loafing shed. The farmstead includes numerous historic and modern farm and domestic resources. A 1923 farmhouse is extant but physically separated from the barn and granary by a modern home and outbuildings. The barnyard grouping is comprised of the existing historic farm-related resources located at the south end of the farmstead. The silo was constructed in 1919, around the time that the hay/loafing shed was added to the barn; the stone corral is dated "1939." The group reflects the earliest construction on the farm and portrays its evolution spanning a period of more than fifty years.

The Persons and Wilson Family Farm

According to biographical accounts, the Persons family came to Riley County in 1855, settling in Township 10, between Manhattan and Zeandale. They had come from New Hampshire, to Leavenworth, Kansas by train and on to Manhattan by oxen[ekd1].⁵ In 1865, their Manhattan Township household included Enoch Persons (72), his wife Belinda Persons (72), their son Enoch Collins Persons (44) and his wife Rebecca (Coulson) Persons (24).⁶ Enoch Persons, Sr. was born in Connecticut in 1793. His wife, Belinda Hubbard was born in Massachusetts. By 1870, both Enoch, Sr. and his wife had died, leaving the property to their son Enoch Collins Persons. Enoch C. married Rebecca Coulson on December 19, 1862 but was widowed in 1879. The couple had three children: Olive, Alvin, and Amory.⁷

Enoch C. Persons was a lifelong farmer/stockman. Although oral tradition holds that Persons was a Civil War veteran, his service could not be documented in Civil War enlistment records. The abstract for the Persons' farm, which lists Abraham Lincoln as grantor, suggests that Persons obtained the property between 1861 and 1865. Given that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated just five days after the Confederacy surrendered, it is unlikely that the land was transferred as part of a land grant associated with Persons' possible Civil War service. Instead, it is [ekd2]likely that this transfer was a purchase at one of the public land sales between 1859 and 1861.⁸ Site evaluation and research suggests that Persons built his native limestone house and barn in the years soon after acquiring his property – that is, in the 1860s.

The Persons household in 1880 consisted of Enoch (59), Olive (13), Alvin (12) and Amory (11). (The family was not listed in the 1885 Kansas Census.) As his family grew, Persons continued to develop his farm. By

⁴ Ibid, p.62.

⁵ *Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie*, (Manhattan: Riley County Genealogical Society, 1976) 426-27.

⁶ The family does not appear in Census records until 1865.

⁷ *Pioneers*.

⁸ Paul Wallace Gates, *Fifty Million Acres: Conflicts Over Kansas Land Policy, 1854-1890* (New York: Atherton Press, 1954), 91-94.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number 8 Page 6

Persons Barn and Granary
Riley County, Kansas

1881, Persons had doubled his original 80-acre tract.⁹ By 1890, he owned an entire section of land (640 acres).¹⁰ By 1895, Enoch C. Persons was 73 years old and sharing his household with his son Amory F. Persons (26) and his wife Jennie M. Persons (21).¹¹ The 1890 Assessment Rolls listed A.F. (Amory) Persons as owner of 60 acres (out of Enoch's holdings).

Just prior to Enoch's death in Parsons, Kansas in 1905, the Persons household included Enoch Collins Persons (83), Amory (36), Jennie (31) and their three children Chester P. (10), Florence U. (5), and Georgia G. (3). By 1909, the entire section of land was in Amory's name. The A.F. Persons' household was listed in a 1925 Riley County Decennial Agricultural Census. Included in the household were Chester (29), then a widower, Florence (24), a single teacher, and Georgia (22), a single student. The family was not listed in the 1930 Census. Members of the Persons family remained in the Manhattan area. Georgia Persons, who was born December 13, 1901, married a local man named Weisbender. She died in October 1983.¹² In fact, both of Amory's daughters reportedly married Weisbenders. Jane Weisbender, great-granddaughter of Enoch C. and living in Wichita, was a source for the Persons family history.¹³

Five generations of the Persons family farmed and improved the property until the mid Twentieth Century. A new wood-frame farmhouse was constructed in 1923, south of the original stone house. The history and fate of the stone farmhouse is unknown; it was gone when the Wilsons purchased the property in 1968. It is unclear if his daughters and their families lived on the farm during his later years but neighboring families managed the farm beginning in 1949. Dixie Worrell Everson, a descendent of early pioneers who homesteaded at the same time as the Persons family, is quite familiar with the Persons farm because her sister and children were good friends of the Persons family. In 1949, Mr. Everson started running the Persons ranch with Dixie's father, "Dutch" Worrell. They farmed and ran cattle for the Persons family and continued to do so for the subsequent owners.¹⁴

The farm was owned by the Persons family until Amory Persons' death in 1958, when it was sold to three Manhattan-area businessmen (Hunter, Lundburg, and Ambrose). The businessmen purchased the land as an investment. It was this partnership that named the place, "Lazy T. Ranch" and installed the sign at the entrance. The Eversons, who managed the property for the Persons', continued to manage the farm for several years under its new ownership. Later a family named Russell moved there and ran the farm. In 1968 (reportedly following a divorce of one of the partners), the farm was sold at auction. At that time, the quarter-section with the house and barn was separated from the farmland. Professor Ed Smith of Manhattan bought the three quarter sections of farmland, which remains in the Smith family today. John and Glenna Wilson, parents of the current owner, purchased the quarter-section with the farmstead.¹⁵

W. John Wilson, his wife Glenna, and their sons John, Stan, and Ron, moved to the Lazy T Ranch in 1968. W. John was a lifelong farmer-stockman, having been born in Oklahoma and grown up on ranches in Texas and

⁹ Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas Illustrated, 1881.

¹⁰ Riley County Assessment Roles, 1890-1898.

¹¹ U.S. Federal and Kansas State Census Data.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Current owner, Ron Wilson, interviewed Jane Weisbender, Enoch C.'s great granddaughter. Jane is also cited as a source for the Persons entry in the book *Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie*.

¹⁴ Ron Wilson, "History of the Lazy T. Ranch" (interview with Dixie Worrell Everson, 2005).

¹⁵ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number 8 Page 7

Persons Barn and Granary
Riley County, Kansas

New Mexico before the family moved back to the Manhattan area. John Wilson, who ran cows and horses on the Lazy T Ranch, was a K-State agriculture graduate, a Navy World War II veteran, an ag teacher, and the Riley County ASCS director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. John's family retained the family home following his death in 2004.

John's wife, Glenna Louise Germann Wilson, still resides at the Lazy T. She came from Alta Vista, the daughter of G.F. and Blanche Germann. G.F. was the son of Swiss immigrants and a farmer-stockman in the Blue River Valley in Kansas. When the family farm was displaced by the construction of Tuttle Creek Lake, the Germanns relocated to a farm near Dwight. G.F.'s wife, Blanch, was a descendant of the Clark and Ross families who also ranched in the area. Glenna is a writer and homemaker, who also taught school in her early days. She was a student at Kansas State University when she met and married John. Glenna took a break from her studies to raise her children and came back to complete her degree 28 years later. She went on to obtain a Masters degree in journalism. Glenna worked on the Kansas 4-H Journal for eleven years, retiring as editor. She now writes for the Kansas Senior Press Service while living in the 1923 farmhouse on the Lazy T. W. John and Glenna's sons and nephew now run the farm. In 2006, their youngest son, Ron, and his family built a new home near the site of the original stone house. Ron, his wife, Chris, and their four children, are actively involved in Kansas agriculture and promoting the state's rural heritage. The barnyard is home to numerous livestock including horses, cows, llamas, sheep and goats, many of which are the kid's 4-H projects. The Lazy T has been home to the Wilson family for forty years - and three generations currently reside there. The Wilsons are continuing the legacy of the family farm originally established by the Persons in 1855.

Summary

The Persons Barn and Granary are significant as a grouping of related agriculture buildings representative of a Kansas farm established by early settlers of the state. The farm was homesteaded by Enoch Persons in 1855, the year that Riley County and Manhattan were founded. The Persons Barn is significant as an example of the Gable-Roof Barn property type and reflects early construction of native stone quarried on-site. The barn represents the essential and prominent role that barns played on Kansas farms, designed for the multi-purpose of housing livestock and storing hay. Its roof shape and exterior form portray the prominent characteristics of the Gable-Roof Barn property type. The granary is also an excellent representative of a primary farm structure built for the singular purpose of on-farm grain storage. The barn and granary are nominated as part of a group of historic farm resources located at the south side of the farmstead. In addition to the barn and granary, the group includes a clay tile silo constructed in 1919 and a stone corral that was likely built in part, of stone salvaged from the original stone farmhouse (1939). Each of the resources reflects the period in which they were constructed and as a group, portrays the evolution of an early Kansas farm. The Persons Barn and Granary are nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as part of an associated grouping of historic farm resources, under the Multiple Property Nomination, *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* as examples of the "Gable-Roof Barn" and "Granary" property types.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number 9 & 10 Page 8

Persons Barn and Granary
Riley County, Kansas

9. Bibliography

- 1901 Plat Map of Manhattan and Riley County (available at the Riley County Historical Museum).
Abstract of Title for Persons Farm, 1855-present (available from current owner, Ron Wilson).
Aerial Photo and current property data, Riley County Appraisers Office.
Davis, Christy and Brenda Spencer. "Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas," Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register, 2008.
Gates, Paul Wallace. Fifty Million Acres: Conflicts Over Kansas Land Policy, 1854-1890. New York: Atherton Press, 1954.
Historical Plat Book of Riley County, Kansas Illustrated. 1881. (Available at the Riley County Historical Museum).
Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie. Riley County Genealogical Society, 1976.
Persons family history and ranch history gathered by Ron Wilson in part through personal interviews and correspondence with: Glenna Wilson, Dixie Worrell Everson, and Jane Weisbender, 2005.
Riley County Assessment Rolls and Tax Records 1862 – 1954. (Available at the Riley County Historical Museum).
Spencer, Brenda. *Kansas Historic Properties Survey Form* for Persons Barn, 10 October, 2007.
United States and Kansas Census, 1865 - 1930.
Wilson, Ron. "History of the Lazy T Ranch." Submitted to the Kansas Ranch Heritage Project, 2005.

10. Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination is for the group of related agriculture resources that are located around the barnyard on the south side of the Persons Farmstead. The group includes the c.1860s barn and granary, the adjacent 1930s stone corral and 1919 tile silo, and a perimeter of twenty feet around the said grouping. The farmstead on which the group is located is a tract comprised of 5.13 acres in the Northeast Quarter of Section 27, Township 10 South, Range 8 East, in Riley County, Kansas.

Boundary Justification

The Lazy T Ranch is comprised of a quarter-section of land on which the farmstead is located (separated from the section of farm land owned by Persons, and purchased by the Wilsons in 1968). The group of historic farm resources located around the barnyard on the south side of the farmstead is comprised of the remaining early farm buildings and structures. The 1923 farmhouse is also extant but physically separated from the historic farm buildings by a modern home and out buildings. Therefore, the farmhouse is not included in the nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas MPS
Section Number - Additional Documentation Page 9

Persons Barn and Granary
Riley County, Kansas

Additional Documentation

Photographs

Photographer: Brenda R. Spencer

Date: October 2007 and May 2008

Original Files: Kansas State Historic Preservation Office and author hold original digital image files

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Camera Direction</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	SW	Historic resources in barnyard group (barn on L, stone corral, tile silo, and granary on R)
2	SE	North and west facades of barn
3	W	West facade of hay/loafing shed addition, from road on west side of barn
4	NE	South facade of barn with addition in foreground
5	N	South and east facades of barn with addition and corral in foreground
6	NW	East facade of barn
7	SW	Interior view down center aisle of barn from entry on north facade.
8	NE	Stalls with mangers on east half of barn with hewn posts in foreground
9	NW	View of haymow, looking toward hay hood and hay door on west facade
10	SW	Detail of hay chutes from haymow, looking south toward hayshed addition
11	N	Detail of hay chute at entry to hay shed
12	SW	Interior view of west wall of hay/loafing shed (with buttresses)
13	SW	Feed rack separating loafing shed from hay storage in barn addition
14	NW	Tile silo and stone corral, southeast of barn
15	S	Detail of date "1939" inscribed in stone corral
16	N	Interior view of silo
17	W	Date "9-1-1919" carved in tile of silo
18	N	View of barnyard, from S (Barn with corral in foreground on L; Granary with second section of stone corral on R)
19	E	West and south facades of granary with second section of corral on R
20	S	North and west facades of granary
21	S	East facade of granary with second section of corral (calf shed) and silo in background
22	W	Interior view of granary
23	N	Interior wall with spaced slats for ventilation, located between north and south rooms on west end of granary
24	N	Interior "bin" on north side of granary
25	SE	Second section of stone corral, located off southeast corner of granary



PERSONS BARN
RILEY COUNTY
KANSAS
UTM - ZONE 14
715175E
4336780N
NAD 83